
Archie ADVENTURE SERIES
NO.3 SEPT.
$1.50
SEGA
SONIC'S FRIENDLY NEMESIS
KNUCKLES
#3 OF 3 ISSUE MINI-SERIES
PENDERS • SPAZIANTE • MAWHINNEY
HARVO • KANTEROVICH • EISMAN • HUNTER

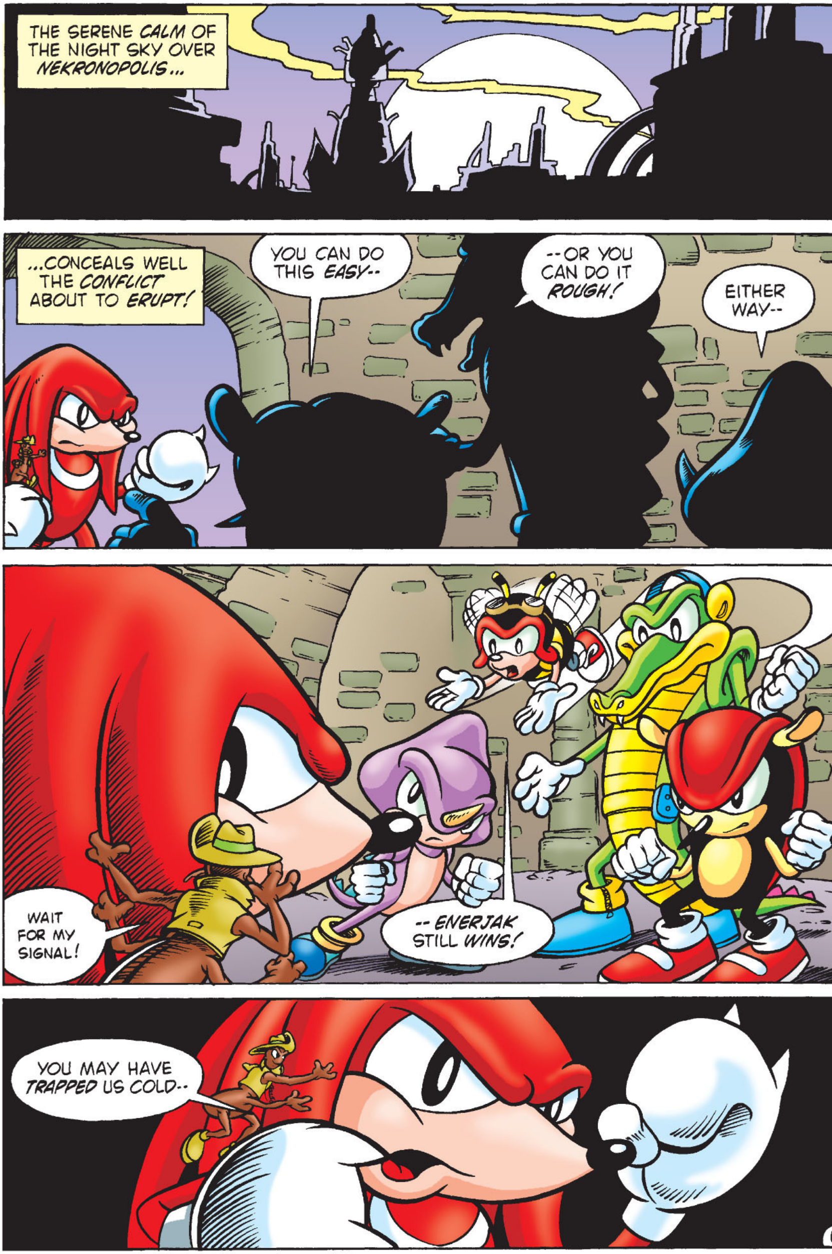

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG--WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE--PRESENTS HIS FRIENDLY NEMESIS
KNUCKLES
...AND THE ECHIDNA'S TRAVELLING COMPANION, ARCHIMEDES...
...AS THEY BATTLE THE CHAOTIX IN ORDER TO DEFEAT THE EVEN DEADLIER THREAT OF...
ENERJAK!

Deep within the heart of the ebon citadel, the fate of everything as we know it will be decided. A battle to be fought, with neither side offering or giving any quarter. Here, the past collides with the present as descendent squares off against ancestor.

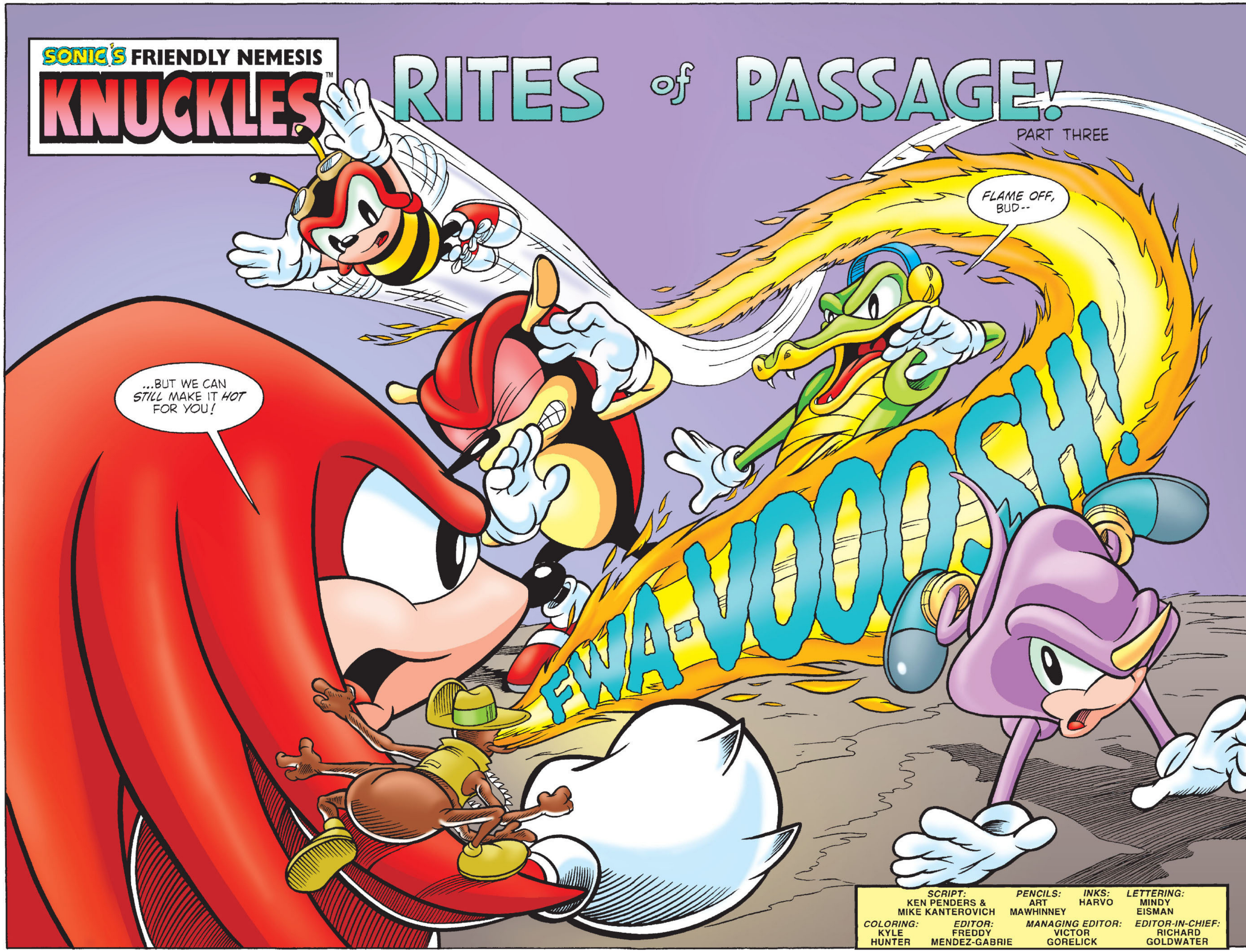
The fiercest of opponents in any conflict are always those linked with the thickest of blood. For them, matters become more personal as the struggle evolves from the mere physical contest to one of conquering the opponent's heart and soul.

Up until now, KNUCKLES has been master of all he surveyed on the tropical paradise known as the FLOATING ISLAND, content in the belief that his was a noble calling. Now he must fight for what he believes in, or surrender to a legacy of fear.

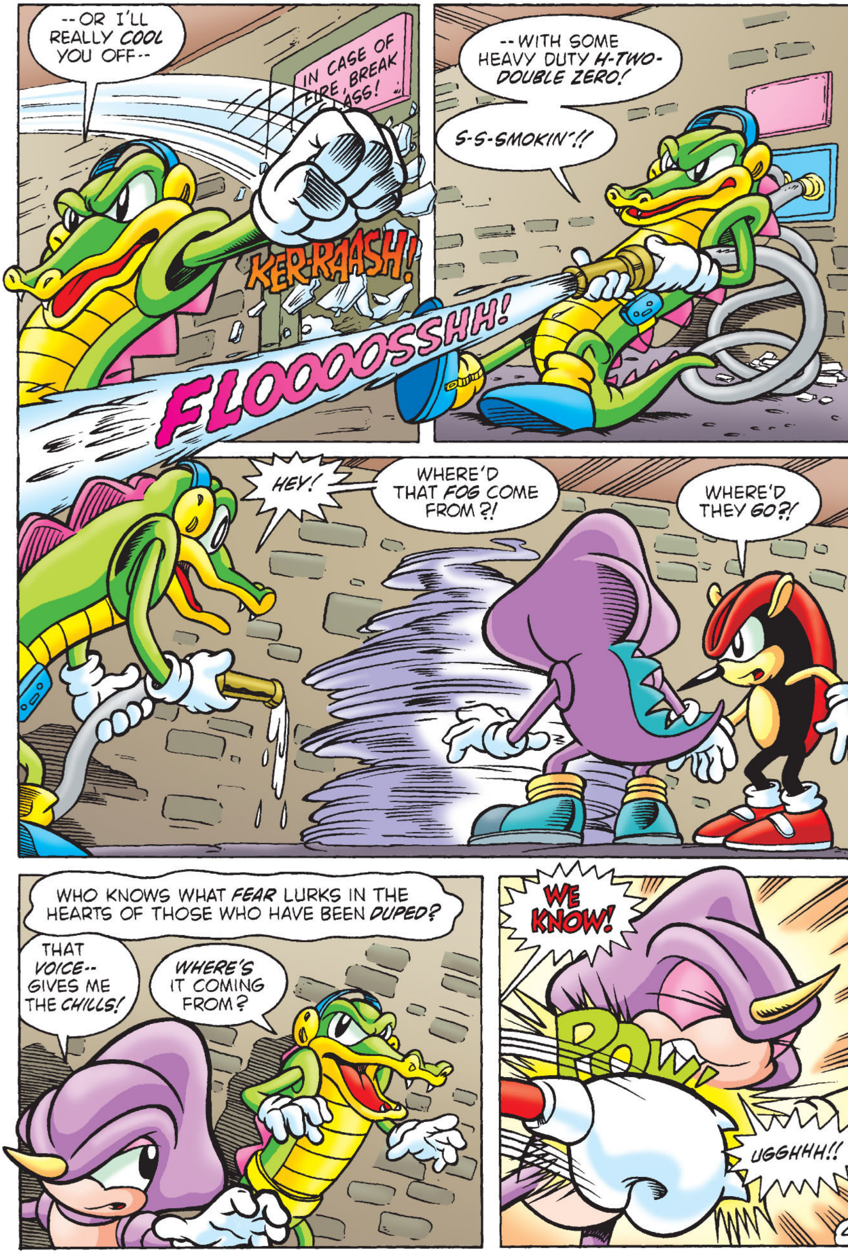
Although guided by his mentor, the fire-ant known as ARCHIMEDES, KNUCKLES may find he needs more than a little help...
...he may need a miracle as well.

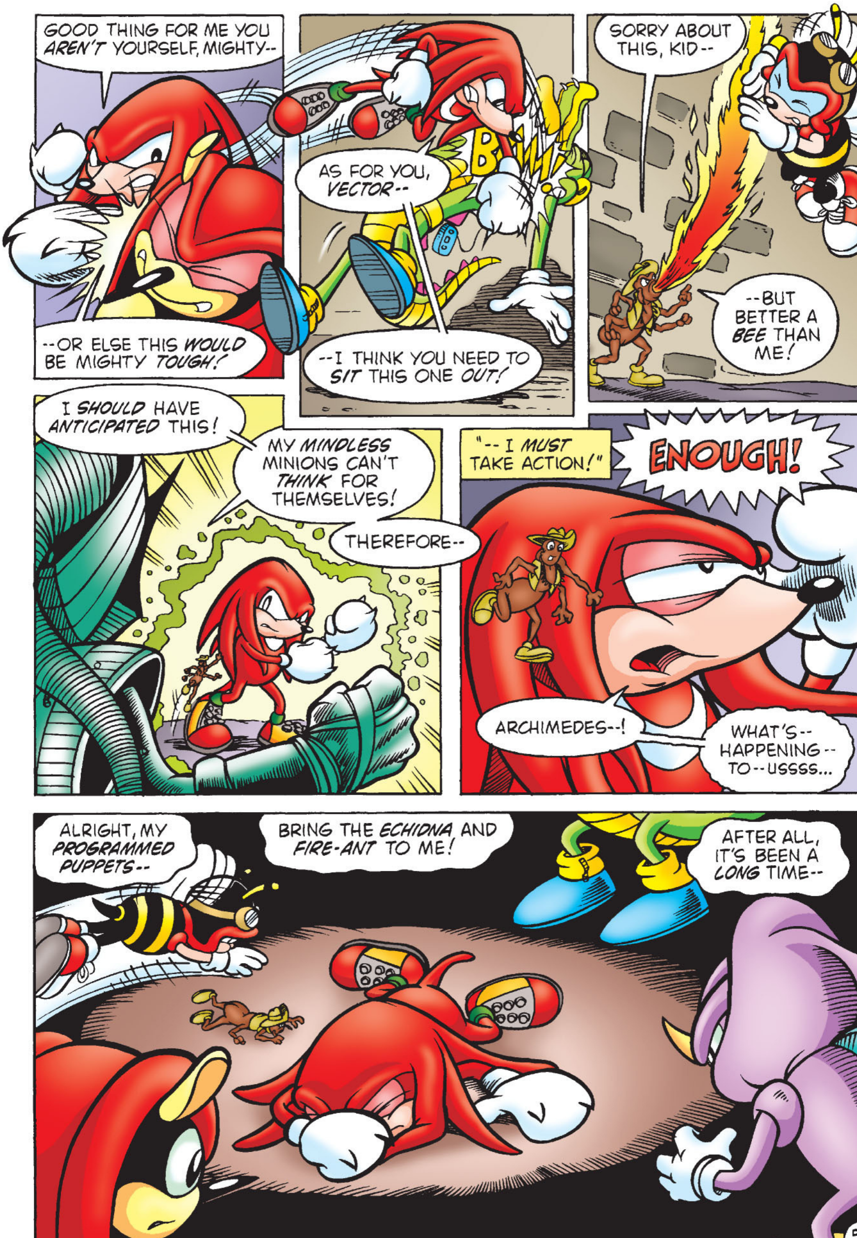


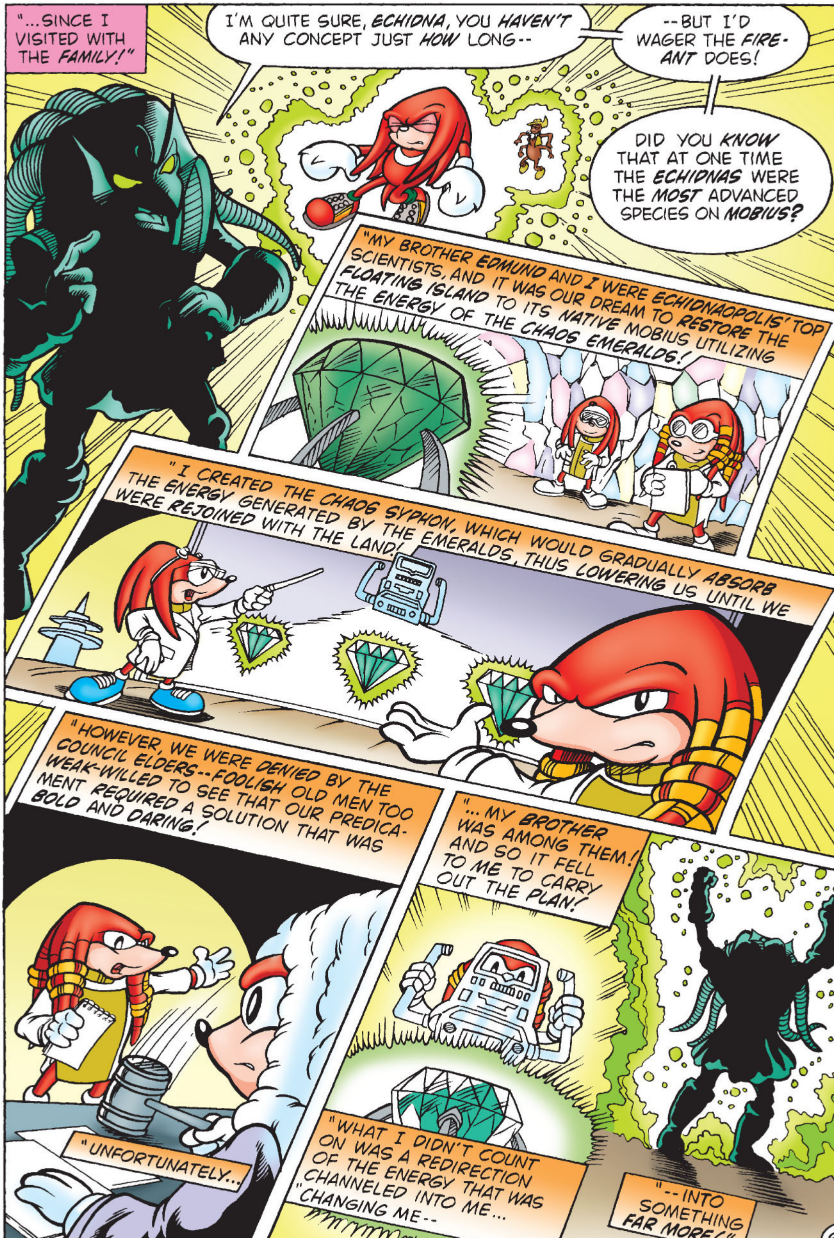
THE SERENE CALM OF THE NIGHT SKY OVER NEKRONOPOLIS...
...CONCEALS WELL THE CONFLICT ABOUT TO ERUPT!
YOU CAN DO THIS EASY--
--OR YOU CAN DO IT ROUGH!
EITHER WAY--
-- ENERJAK STILL WINS!
WAIT FOR MY SIGNAL!
YOU MAY HAVE TRAPPED US COLD--
1

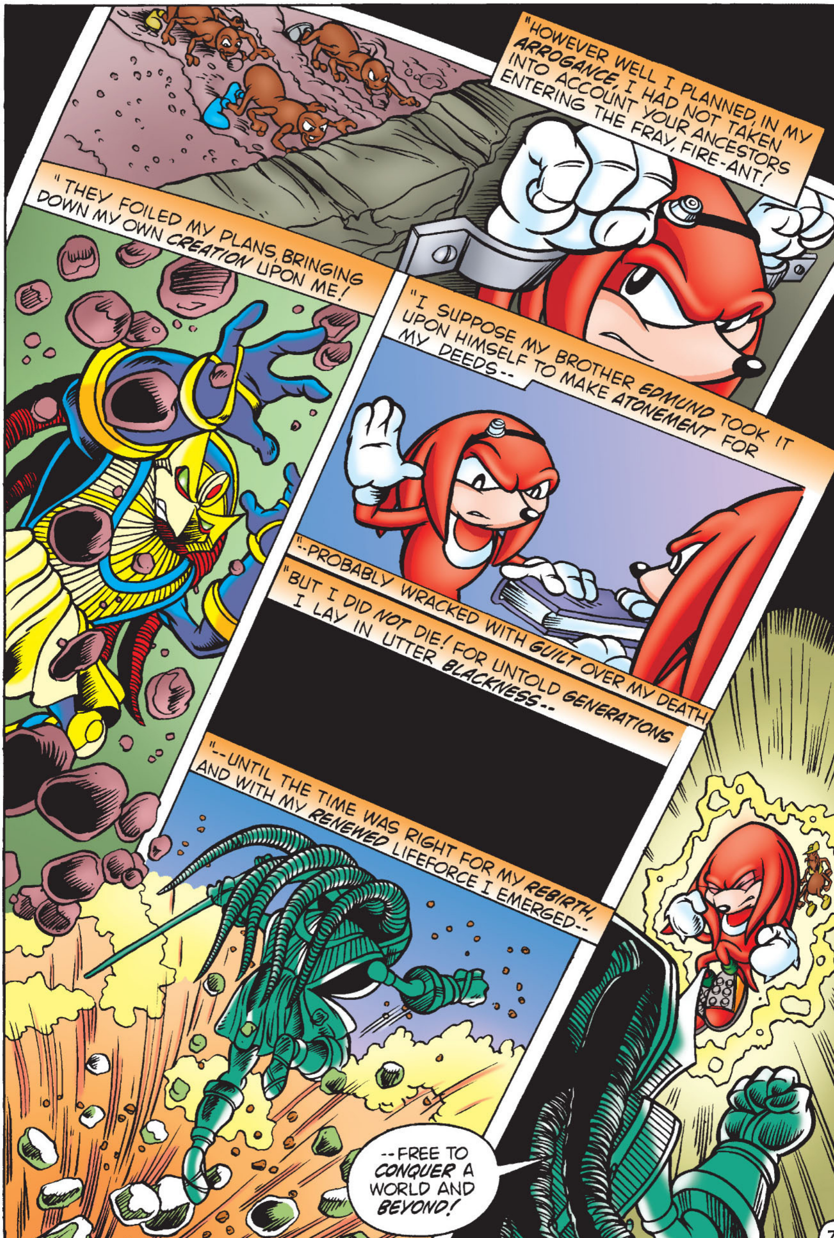


SONIC'S FRIENDLY NEMESIS
KNUCKLES™
RITES of PASSAGE!
PART THREE
FLAME OFF, BUD--
...BUT WE CAN STILL MAKE IT HOT FOR YOU!
FWA-VOOOSH!
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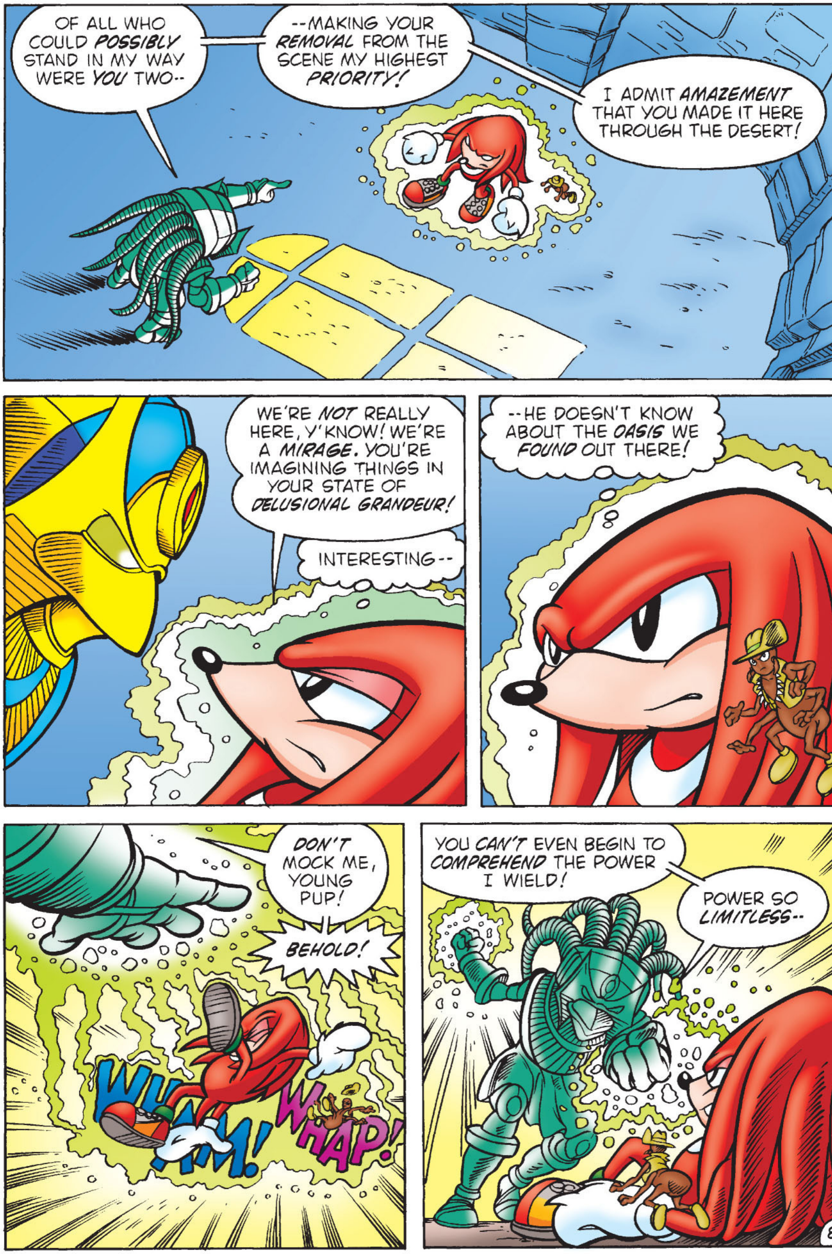

--OR I'LL REALLY COOL YOU OFF--
IN CASE OF FIRE, BREAK GLASS!
KER-RAASH!
--WITH SOME HEAVY DUTY H-TWO-DOUBLE ZERO!
S-S-SMOKIN'!!
FLOOOOOSSHH!
HEY!
WHERE'D THAT FOG COME FROM?!
WHERE'D THEY GO?!
WHO KNOWS WHAT FEAR LURKS IN THE HEARTS OF THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN DUPED?
THAT VOICE--GIVES ME THE CHILLS!
WHERE'S IT COMING FROM?
WE KNOW!
POW!
UGGHHH!!

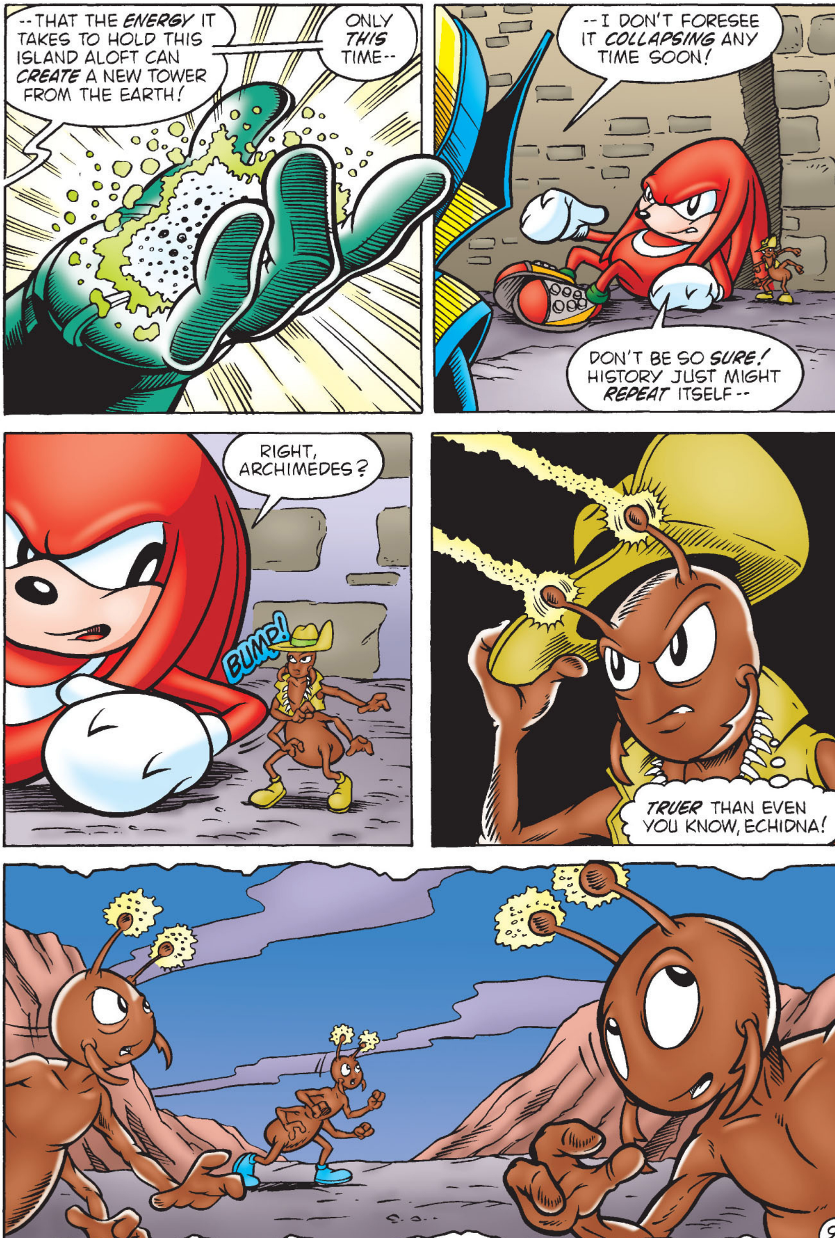

GOOD THING FOR ME YOU AREN'T YOURSELF, MIGHTY--
--OR ELSE THIS WOULD BE MIGHTY TOUGH!
B
AS FOR YOU, VECTOR--
--I THINK YOU NEED TO SIT THIS ONE OUT!
SORRY ABOUT THIS, KID--
--BUT BETTER A BEE THAN ME!
I SHOULD HAVE ANTICIPATED THIS!
MY MINDLESS MINIONS CAN'T THINK FOR THEMSELVES!
THEREFORE--
"--I MUST TAKE ACTION!"
ENOUGH!
ARCHIMEDES--!
WHAT'S--HAPPENING--TO--USSSS...
ALRIGHT, MY PROGRAMMED PUPPETS--
BRING THE ECHIDNA AND FIRE-ANT TO ME!
AFTER ALL, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME--
5

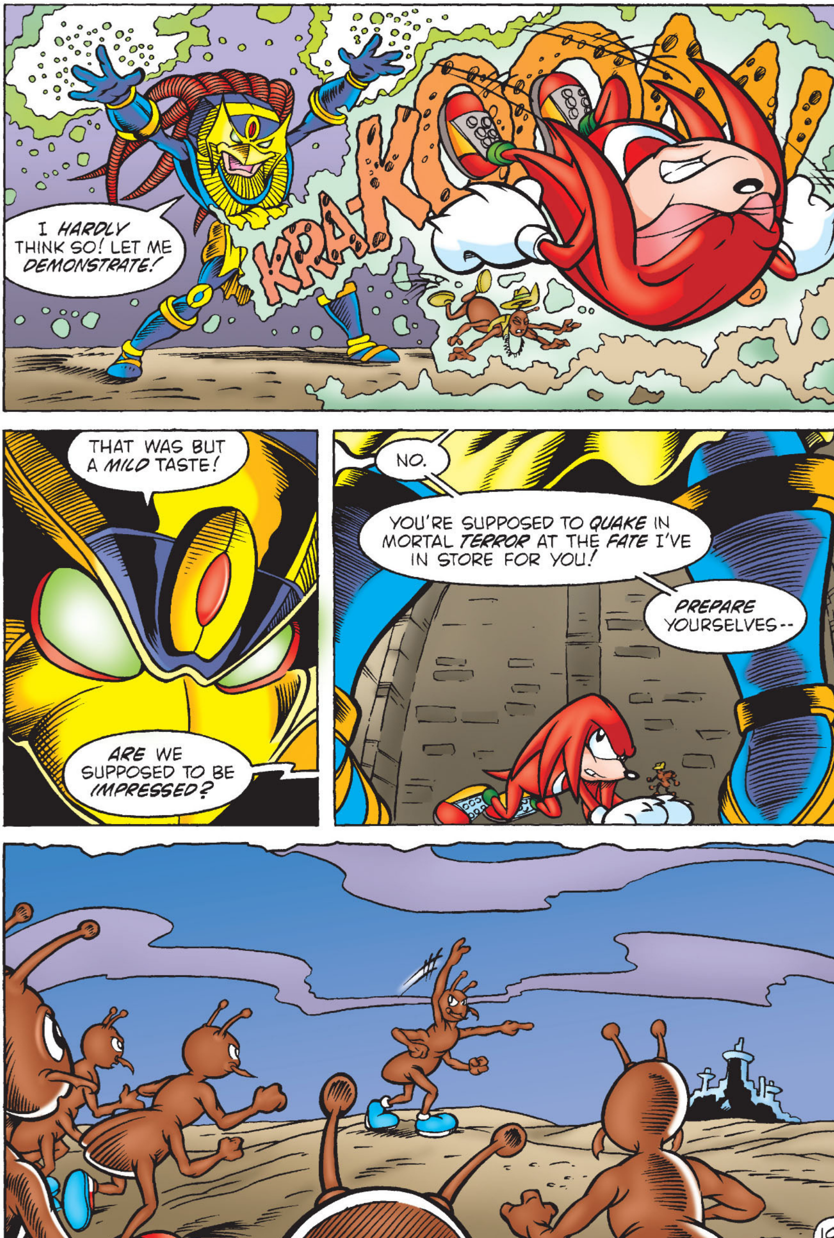

"...SINCE I VISITED WITH THE FAMILY!"
I'M QUITE SURE, ECHIDNA, YOU HAVEN'T ANY CONCEPT JUST HOW LONG--
--BUT I'D WAGER THE FIRE-ANT DOES!
DID YOU KNOW THAT AT ONE TIME THE ECHIDNAS WERE THE MOST ADVANCED SPECIES ON MOBIUS?
"MY BROTHER EDMUND AND I WERE ECHIDNAOPOLIS' TOP SCIENTISTS, AND IT WAS OUR DREAM TO RESTORE THE FLOATING ISLAND TO ITS NATIVE MOBIUS UTILIZING THE ENERGY OF THE CHAOS EMERALDS!
"I CREATED THE CHAOS SYPHON, WHICH WOULD GRADUALLY ABSORB THE ENERGY GENERATED BY THE EMERALDS, THUS LOWERING US UNTIL WE WERE REJOINED WITH THE LAND!
"HOWEVER, WE WERE DENIED BY THE COUNCIL ELDERS--FOOLISH OLD MEN TOO WEAK-WILLED TO SEE THAT OUR PREDICAMENT REQUIRED A SOLUTION THAT WAS BOLD AND DARING!
"UNFORTUNATELY...
"...MY BROTHER WAS AMONG THEM! AND SO IT FELL TO ME TO CARRY OUT THE PLAN!
"WHAT I DIDN'T COUNT ON WAS A REDIRECTION OF THE ENERGY THAT WAS CHANNELED INTO ME... "CHANGING ME--
"--INTO SOMETHING FAR MORE!"
6

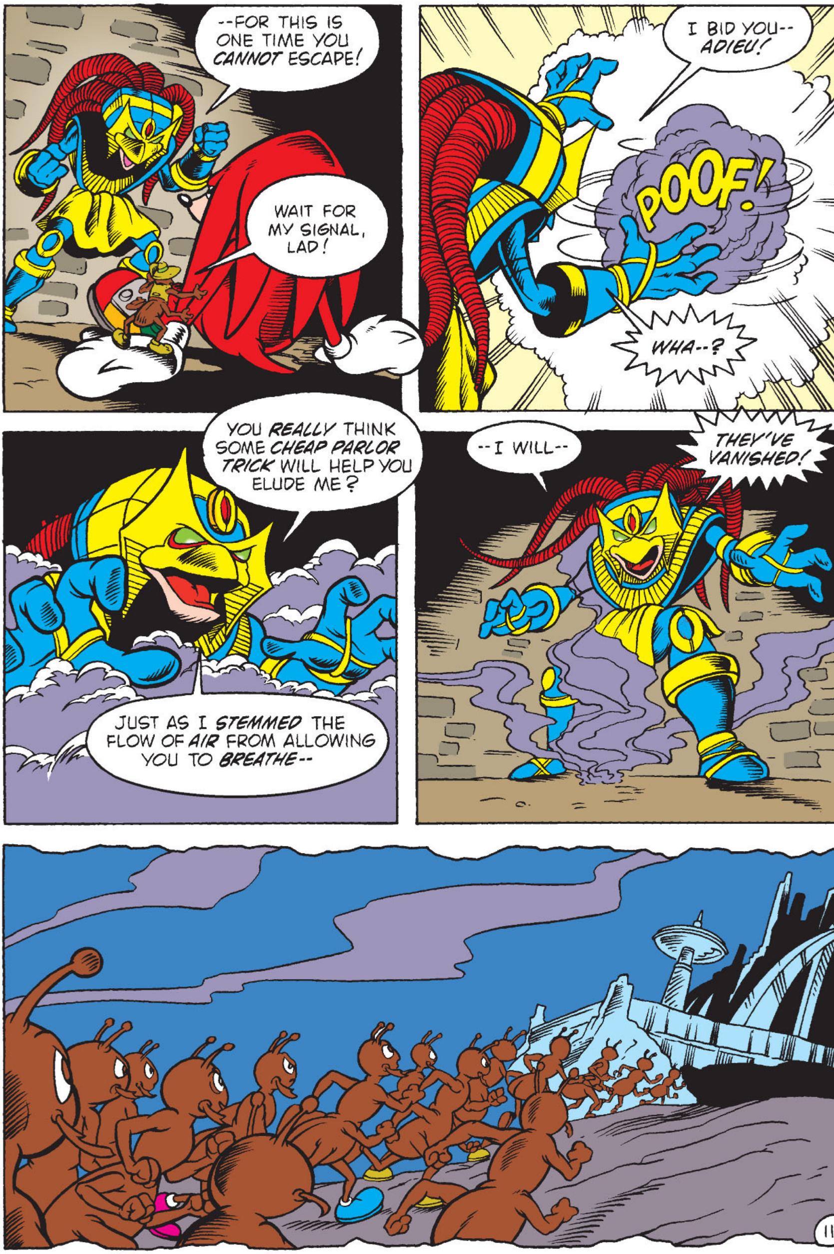


"HOWEVER WELL I PLANNED, IN MY ARROGANCE, I HAD NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT YOUR ANCESTORS ENTERING THE FRAY, FIRE-ANT!
"THEY FOILED MY PLANS, BRINGING DOWN MY OWN CREATION UPON ME!
"I SUPPOSE MY BROTHER EDMUND TOOK IT UPON HIMSELF TO MAKE ATONEMENT FOR MY DEEDS--
"--PROBABLY WRACKED WITH GUILT OVER MY DEATH.
"BUT I DID NOT DIE! FOR UNTOLD GENERATIONS I LAY IN UTTER BLACKNESS--
"--UNTIL THE TIME WAS RIGHT FOR MY REBIRTH, AND WITH MY RENEWED LIFEFORCE I EMERGED--
--FREE TO CONQUER A WORLD AND BEYOND!


OF ALL WHO COULD POSSIBLY STAND IN MY WAY WERE YOU TWO--
--MAKING YOUR REMOVAL FROM THE SCENE MY HIGHEST PRIORITY!
I ADMIT AMAZEMENT THAT YOU MADE IT HERE THROUGH THE DESERT!
WE'RE NOT REALLY HERE, Y'KNOW! WE'RE A MIRAGE. YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS IN YOUR STATE OF DELUSIONAL GRANDEUR!
INTERESTING--
--HE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THE OASIS WE FOUND OUT THERE!
DON'T MOCK ME, YOUNG PUP!
BEHOLD!
WHAM!
WHAP!
YOU CAN'T EVEN BEGIN TO COMPREHEND THE POWER I WIELD!
POWER SO LIMITLESS--
8


--THAT THE *ENERGY* IT TAKES TO HOLD THIS ISLAND ALOFT CAN *CREATE* A NEW TOWER FROM THE EARTH!
ONLY *THIS* TIME--
--I DON'T FORESEE IT *COLLAPSING* ANY TIME SOON!
DON'T BE SO *SURE!* HISTORY JUST MIGHT *REPEAT* ITSELF--
RIGHT, ARCHIMEDES?
BUMP!
TRUER THAN EVEN YOU KNOW, ECHIDNA!

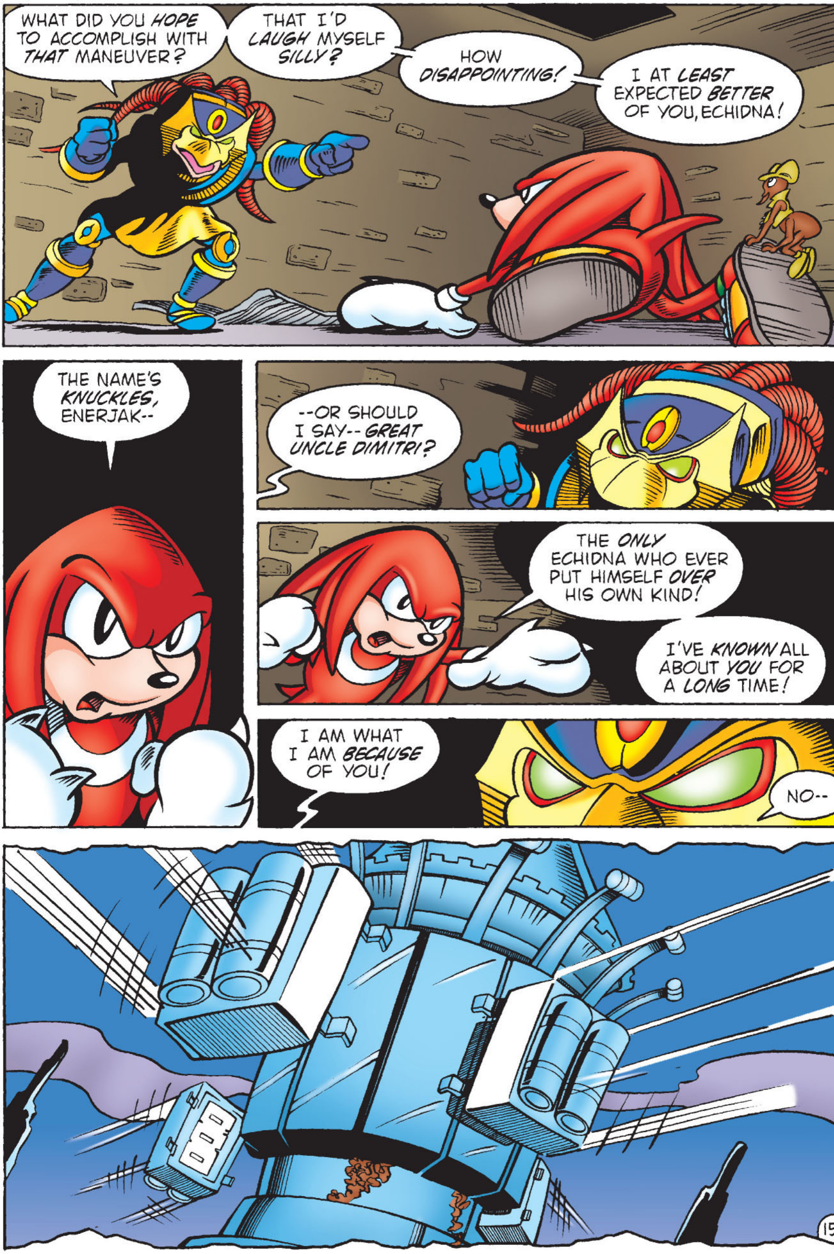

KRA-KOOOOM!
I HARDLY THINK SO! LET ME DEMONSTRATE!
THAT WAS BUT A MILD TASTE!
ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BE IMPRESSED?
NO.
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO QUAKE IN MORTAL TERROR AT THE FATE I'VE IN STORE FOR YOU!
PREPARE YOURSELVES--
10

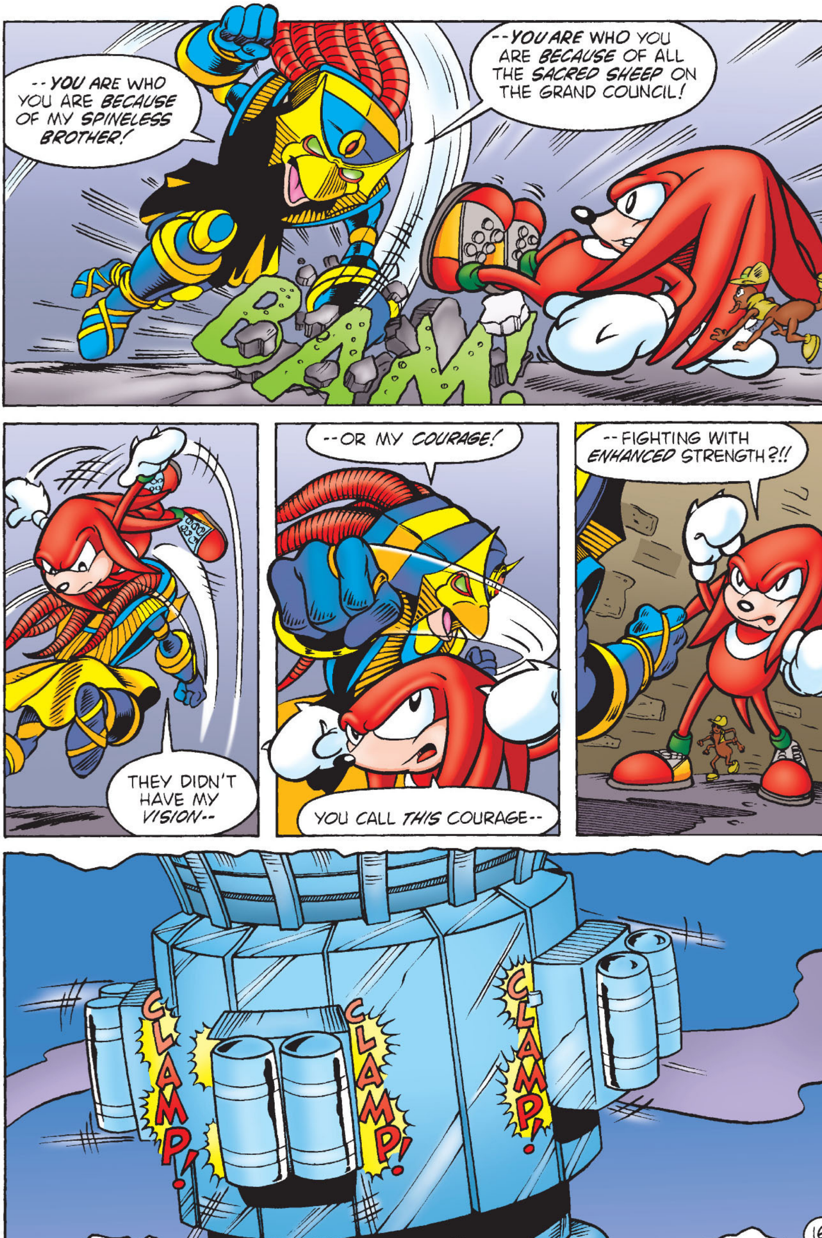


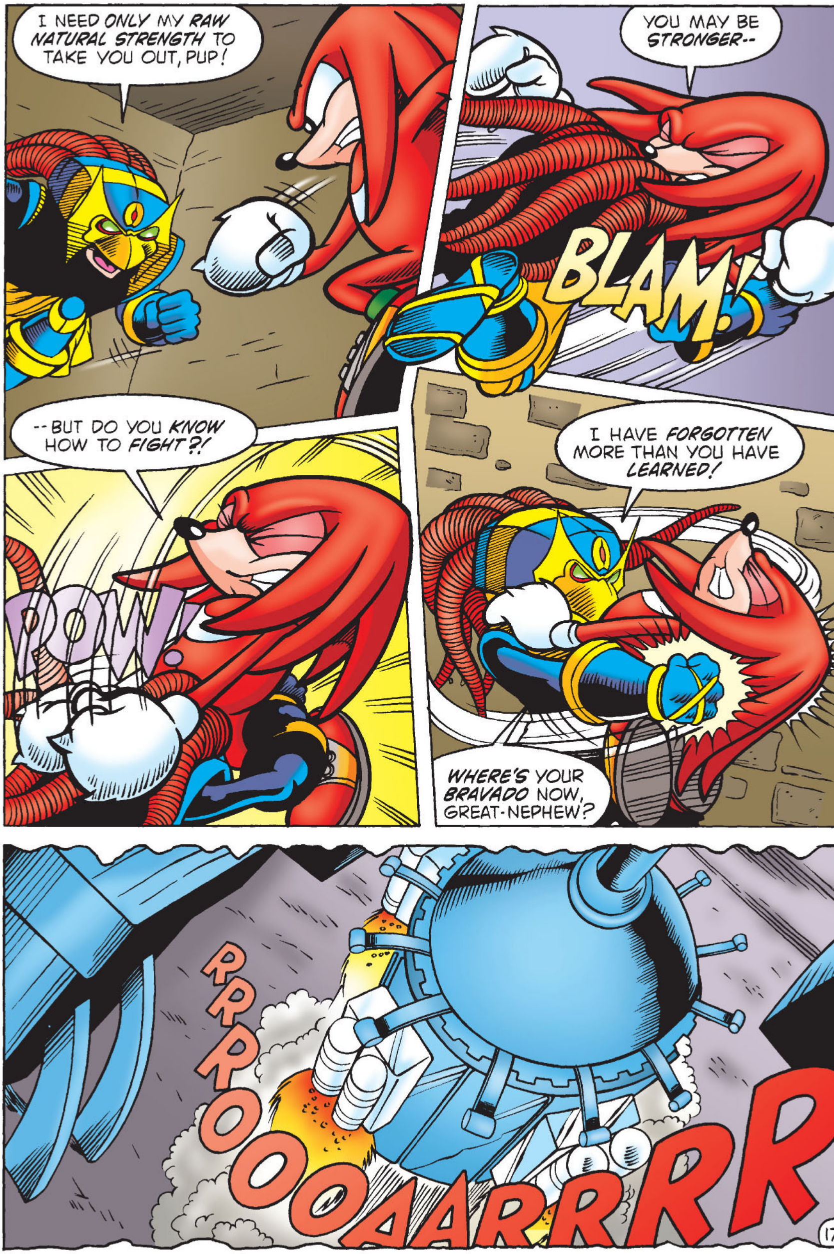
--FOR THIS IS ONE TIME YOU CANNOT ESCAPE!
WAIT FOR MY SIGNAL, LAD!
I BID YOU-- ADIEU!
POOF!
WHA--?
YOU REALLY THINK SOME CHEAP PARLOR TRICK WILL HELP YOU ELUDE ME?
JUST AS I STEMMED THE FLOW OF AIR FROM ALLOWING YOU TO BREATHE--
--I WILL--
THEY'VE VANISHED!
11


"OF ALL THE--ATTENTION, CHAOTIX! THE ECHIDNA AND FIRE-ANT ARE ON THE LOOSE!
"LOCATE AND CAPTURE-- THEN BRING THEM TO ME!"
THE MASTER COMMANDS!
WE MUST BE QUICK WITH OUR TASK!
THERE THEY GO!
THIS ILLUSION TRICK IS SOMETHING ELSE!
SO WHAT'S NEXT?
12

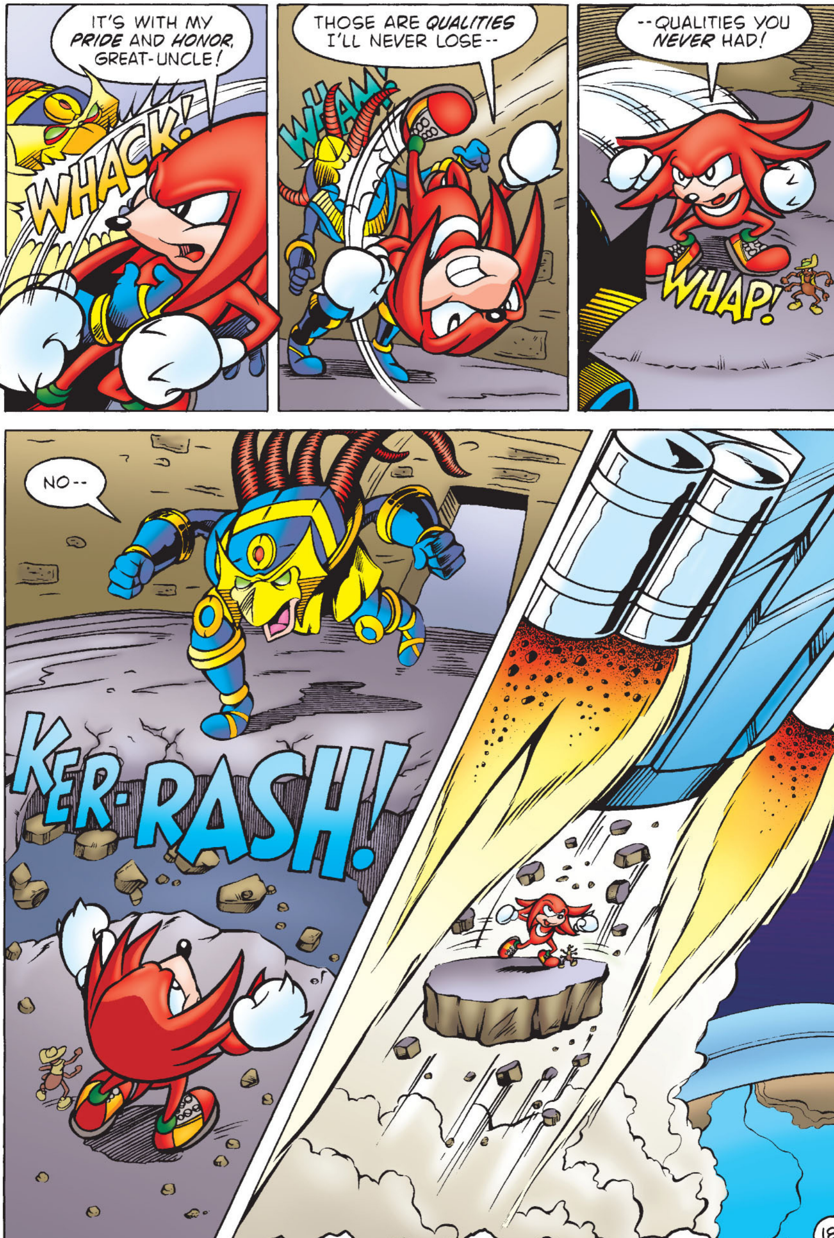

NEXT--WE PREPARE TO COUNTERATTACK!
HOW DO YOU PROPOSE WE DO THAT?
HE DOESN'T NEED TO BE ANYWHERE NEAR US IN ORDER TO STRIKE!
YOU'RE QUITE CORRECT!
HOWEVER--
--WE HAVE AN ACE UP OUR SLEEVE!
WE DO?
WE DO!
RIGHT NOW, FOR SOME REASON, MY ILLUSION TRICK--AS YOU PUT IT--KEEPS US CONCEALED FROM ENERJAK!
THUS, WE'LL BE ABLE TO GET IN POSITION AND--
13

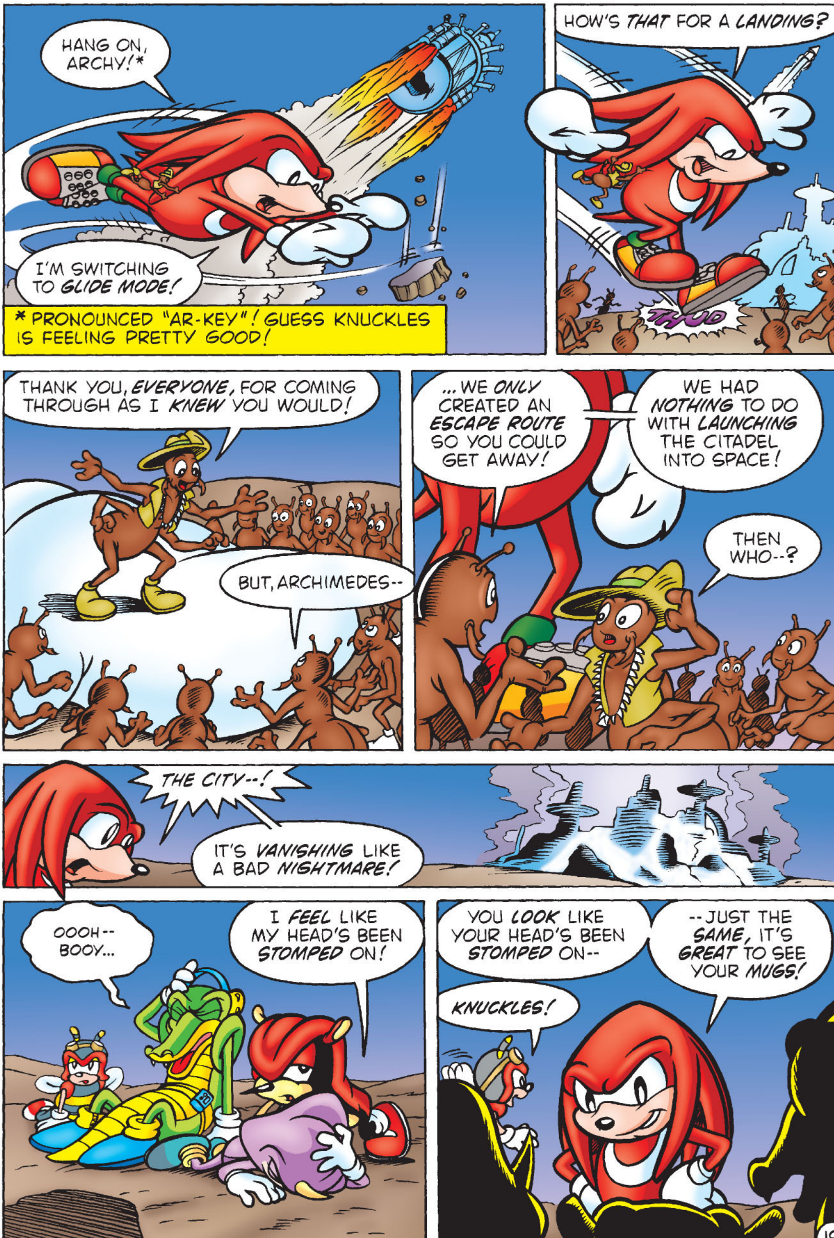

WHAT DID YOU HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH WITH THAT MANEUVER?
THAT I'D LAUGH MYSELF SILLY?
HOW DISAPPOINTING!
I AT LEAST EXPECTED BETTER OF YOU, ECHIDNA!
THE NAME'S KNUCKLES, ENERJAK--
--OR SHOULD I SAY-- GREAT UNCLE DIMITRI?
THE ONLY ECHIDNA WHO EVER PUT HIMSELF OVER HIS OWN KIND!
I'VE KNOWN ALL ABOUT YOU FOR A LONG TIME!
I AM WHAT I AM BECAUSE OF YOU!
NO--

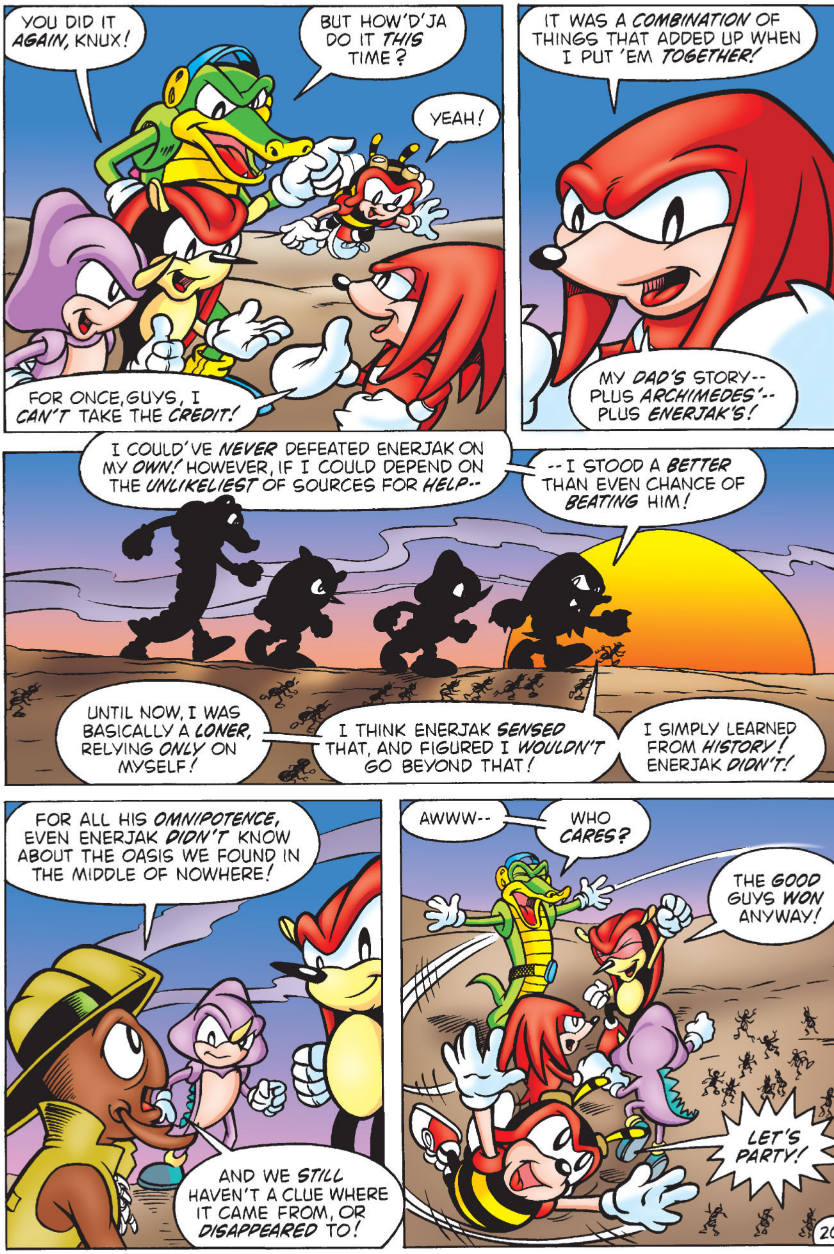

--YOU ARE WHO YOU ARE BECAUSE OF MY SPINELESS BROTHER!
--YOU ARE WHO YOU ARE BECAUSE OF ALL THE SACRED SHEEP ON THE GRAND COUNCIL!
BAM!
THEY DIDN'T HAVE MY VISION--
--OR MY COURAGE!
YOU CALL THIS COURAGE--
--FIGHTING WITH ENHANCED STRENGTH?!!
CLAMP!
CLAMP!
CLAMP!
16



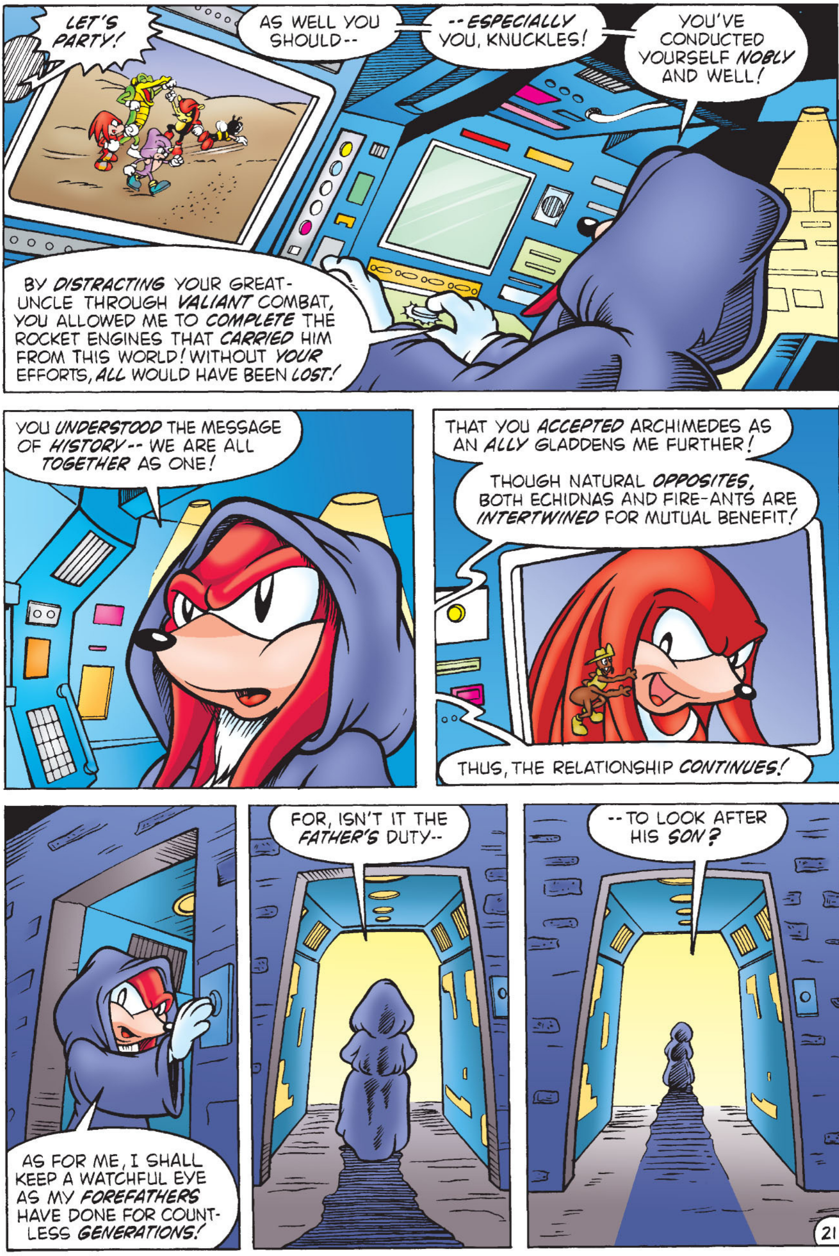
I NEED ONLY MY RAW NATURAL STRENGTH TO TAKE YOU OUT, PUP!
YOU MAY BE STRONGER--
BLAM!
--BUT DO YOU KNOW HOW TO FIGHT?!
POW!
I HAVE FORGOTTEN MORE THAN YOU HAVE LEARNED!
WHERE'S YOUR BRAVADO NOW, GREAT-NEPHEW?
RRRROOOOAARRRR
17


IT'S WITH MY PRIDE AND HONOR, GREAT-UNCLE!
WHACK!
THOSE ARE QUALITIES I'LL NEVER LOSE--
WHAM!
--QUALITIES YOU NEVER HAD!
WHAP!
NO--
KER-RASH!
18

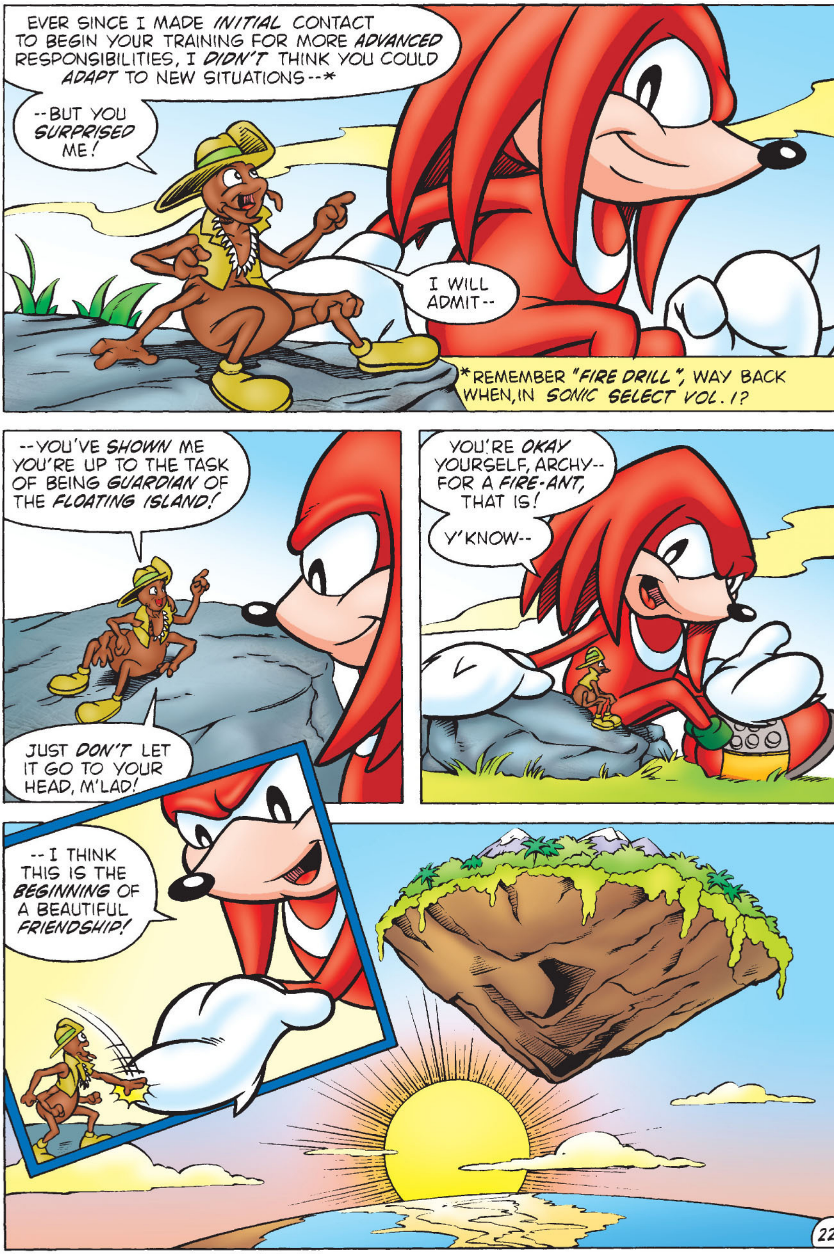

HANG ON, ARCHY!*
I'M SWITCHING TO GLIDE MODE!
* PRONOUNCED "AR-KEY"! GUESS KNUCKLES IS FEELING PRETTY GOOD!
HOW'S THAT FOR A LANDING?
THUD
THANK YOU, EVERYONE, FOR COMING THROUGH AS I KNEW YOU WOULD!
BUT, ARCHIMEDES--
...WE ONLY CREATED AN ESCAPE ROUTE SO YOU COULD GET AWAY!
WE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH LAUNCHING THE CITADEL INTO SPACE!
THEN WHO--?
THE CITY--!
IT'S VANISHING LIKE A BAD NIGHTMARE!
OOOH-- BOOY...
I FEEL LIKE MY HEAD'S BEEN STOMPED ON!
YOU LOOK LIKE YOUR HEAD'S BEEN STOMPED ON--
--JUST THE SAME, IT'S GREAT TO SEE YOUR MUGS!
KNUCKLES!

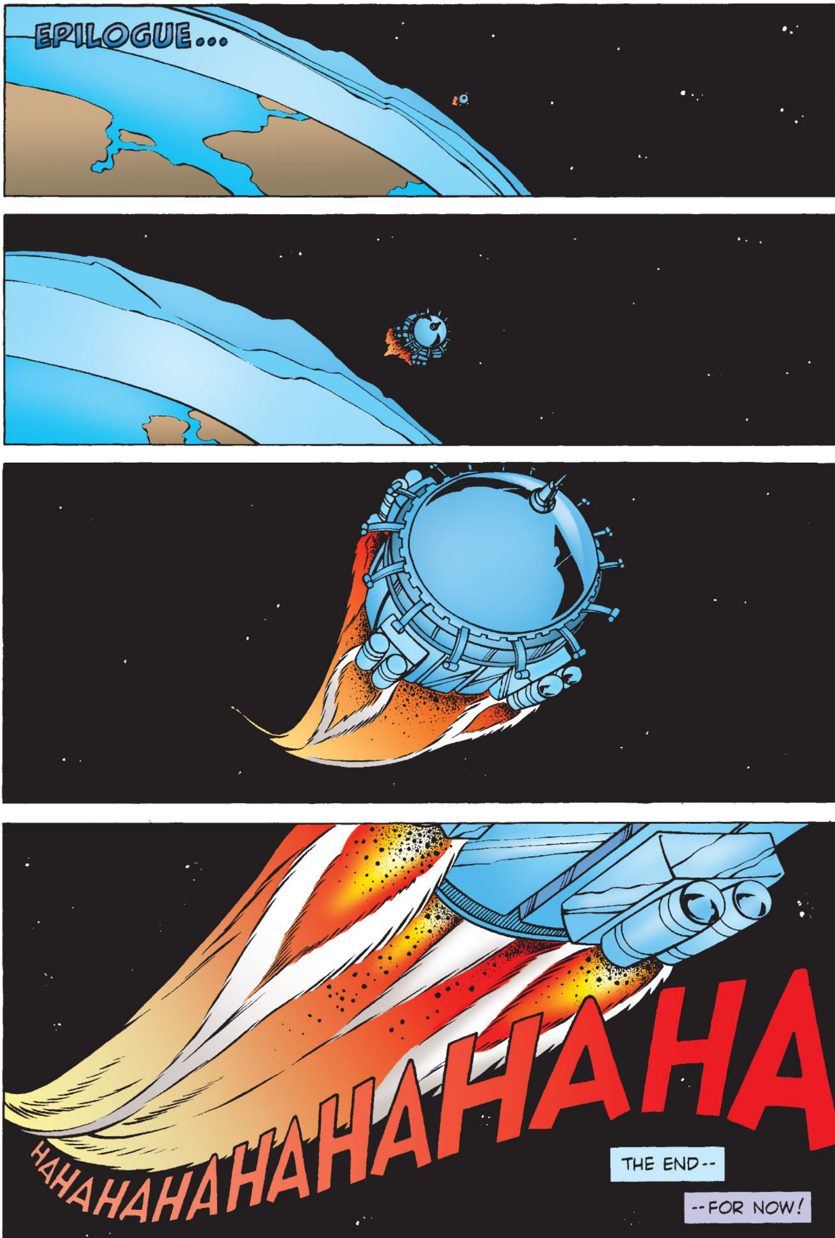


YOU DID IT AGAIN, KNUX!
BUT HOW'D'JA DO IT THIS TIME?
YEAH!
FOR ONCE, GUYS, I CAN'T TAKE THE CREDIT!
IT WAS A COMBINATION OF THINGS THAT ADDED UP WHEN I PUT 'EM TOGETHER!
MY DAD'S STORY-- PLUS ARCHIMEDES'-- PLUS ENERJAK'S!
I COULD'VE NEVER DEFEATED ENERJAK ON MY OWN! HOWEVER, IF I COULD DEPEND ON THE UNLIKELIEST OF SOURCES FOR HELP--
--I STOOD A BETTER THAN EVEN CHANCE OF BEATING HIM!
UNTIL NOW, I WAS BASICALLY A LONER, RELYING ONLY ON MYSELF!
I THINK ENERJAK SENSED THAT, AND FIGURED I WOULDN'T GO BEYOND THAT!
I SIMPLY LEARNED FROM HISTORY! ENERJAK DIDN'T!
FOR ALL HIS OMNIPOTENCE, EVEN ENERJAK DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE OASIS WE FOUND IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE!
AND WE STILL HAVEN'T A CLUE WHERE IT CAME FROM, OR DISAPPEARED TO!
AWWW--
WHO CARES?
THE GOOD GUYS WON ANYWAY!
LET'S PARTY!
20



LET'S PARTY!
AS WELL YOU SHOULD--
--ESPECIALLY YOU, KNUCKLES!
YOU'VE CONDUCTED YOURSELF NOBLY AND WELL!
BY DISTRACTING YOUR GREAT-UNCLE THROUGH VALIANT COMBAT, YOU ALLOWED ME TO COMPLETE THE ROCKET ENGINES THAT CARRIED HIM FROM THIS WORLD! WITHOUT YOUR EFFORTS, ALL WOULD HAVE BEEN LOST!
YOU UNDERSTOOD THE MESSAGE OF HISTORY-- WE ARE ALL TOGETHER AS ONE!
THAT YOU ACCEPTED ARCHIMEDES AS AN ALLY GLADDENS ME FURTHER!
THOUGH NATURAL OPPOSITES, BOTH ECHIDNAS AND FIRE-ANTS ARE INTERTWINED FOR MUTUAL BENEFIT!
THUS, THE RELATIONSHIP CONTINUES!
AS FOR ME, I SHALL KEEP A WATCHFUL EYE AS MY FOREFATHERS HAVE DONE FOR COUNTLESS GENERATIONS!
FOR, ISN'T IT THE FATHER'S DUTY--
--TO LOOK AFTER HIS SON?


EVER SINCE I MADE *INITIAL* CONTACT TO BEGIN YOUR TRAINING FOR MORE *ADVANCED* RESPONSIBILITIES, I *DIDN'T* THINK YOU COULD *ADAPT* TO NEW SITUATIONS--*
--BUT YOU *SURPRISED* ME!
I WILL ADMIT--
*REMEMBER *"FIRE DRILL"*, WAY BACK WHEN, IN *SONIC SELECT VOL. 1*?
--YOU'VE *SHOWN* ME YOU'RE UP TO THE TASK OF BEING *GUARDIAN* OF THE *FLOATING ISLAND!*
JUST *DON'T* LET IT GO TO YOUR HEAD, M'LAD!
YOU'RE *OKAY* YOURSELF, ARCHY-- FOR A *FIRE-ANT,* THAT IS!
Y'KNOW--
--I THINK THIS IS THE *BEGINNING* OF A BEAUTIFUL *FRIENDSHIP!*


EPILOGUE...
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
THE END--
--FOR NOW!